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Cottage industries among Harijans

* 2596 *Q.*—Sri O. KORAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any scheme for the revival of cottage industries among Harijans in Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, what it is?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) No scheme has been formulated exclusively for the benefit of the Harijans of Malabar. Schemes already sanctioned by Government and schemes proposed to be started under the Draft Second Five-Year Plan for the development of Small Scale and Cottage Industries in Malabar will benefit the Harijans also, along with the members of other communities, in Malabar.

* Sri C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Government consider the question of organizing societies for the making of mats so as to give them employment and reasonable wages?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, Government will examine that also.

Sri O. KORAN : May I know, Sir, whether Government have gathered any statistics as to what all things are manufactured there in Malabar and in which Harijans are engaged?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Government are having a general survey of the possibilities of various small industries which will give employment to the people who are now unemployed.

Foreign milk powder and ghee

* 2597 *Q.*—Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the Roman Catholic Church in Madras State are distributing foreign milk powder and ghee in this State; and

(*b*) if so, from what country or countries these articles of foodstuff are imported?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) From charitable institutions in the United States of America.

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Since they are now being distributed at the entire grace and whims of certain church dignitaries and certain objections have also come up against such distribution, would Government have some supervision over this distribution?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : The Church World Service of America and some institutions supply these gift articles for distribution in the State. These articles are received in the name

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of the Archibishop of Madras who in turn passes the consignments to Bishops in the mufassal towns for distribution to the poor and needy without distinction of caste or creed.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: May I know whether the Government are examining the quality of the milk powder and ghee distributed for there appeared a news item in the Press that in Japan when the milk powder and ghee from United States, were distributed, hundreds of children became victims of poisoning? Since there is a likelihood of such a thing happening in India also, will the Government examine the quality of the milk powder and ghee obtained from foreign countries and distributed in this State?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The gift articles received are quite good in quality. I have not heard of any such disaster happening here.

SRI W. J. FERNANDEZ: Is it not a fact that the Archibishop of Madras who receives these gifts from America is distributing them without distinction of race, caste or creed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Yes, Sir, that is what I have said.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: May I know from the Hon. Minister why the milk powder and ghee supplied by these Catholic institutions are being distributed through private agencies and not through the Red Cross or through Government agency? While milk powder and other donations were received from other countries Government objected to the distribution through private agencies and stated that they should be distributed only through the Red Cross Society?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: What is received from the UNICEF is distributed through Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and Government Hospitals and by the Revenue Department.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Government issue an order that before distributing this ghee and milk powder to the public, they are tested to see that there is no poison in this?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: It is a ridiculous suggestion, Sir.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Sir, I am not against the distribution of these articles. But may I know from the Hon. Minister whether any politics is mixed with this ghee and milk powder?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: There is nothing in which politics is not inter-mixed. The hon. Member seems to think so.

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: While I am quite aware and I have had experience of the distribution of this milk powder without reference to caste, creed, colour or religion, there were objections here and there that political poison was mixed up with this. Would the Government have an eye on this and supervise the distribution?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: We shall have to start a new research centre to see whether any political poison is inter-mixed in such gift articles.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: Sir, the ghee itself is called "ghee oil". It is a combination of ghee and oil and the colour of the ghee oil is reddish . . .

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is dangerous . . .

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: It is manufactured in a country where the people are never in the habit of using ghee. In view of these things will the Government investigate what exactly the substance is. (Interruption.) I have not tasted that ghee. Will the Government investigate and assure the people that its contents are quite good?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: So far as my information goes there is no such thing as "ghee oil".

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: It is butter oil.

Naicken canal in Malampuzha Project

* 2598 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received the report from the Collector of Malabar regarding the arrangements made for the distribution of water from Naicken Canal of the Malampuzha Project; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) & (*b*) The answer[a] is laid on the table of the House.

Government Estate, Madras

* 2599 *Q.*—SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM (on behalf of Sri M. Manickasundaram): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the date on which Government Estate was handed over by the Governor of Madras to the Government for management by the Public Works Department; and

(*b*) the conditions and purpose for which the Government Estate was handed over by the Governor?

[a] **Printed as Appendix III on pages 680–681 infra.**